

Ms. Corita Waters
National Park Service
National Recreation Trail Coordinator

Dear Ms. Waters,

On behalf of the Hoosier Chapter of the Sierra Club, I am writing to express our support for designation of the Kankakee River Water Trail as a National Water Trail. We support the designation of a National Water Trail for the entire 133 miles of the Kankakee River from the headwaters of the Kankakee River in rural St. Joseph County, Indiana, to the Des Plaines River in Illinois.

The Sierra Club is the nation's largest and oldest environmental organization. We have more than 25,000 members and supporters in the state of Indiana. On behalf of the Sierra Club, we believe the establishment of the Kankakee River as a National Water Trail will encourage conservation and enjoyment of the river for all of Indiana.

Based on the benefits of the creation of the Kankakee River National Water Trail, including increasing community-based recreational opportunities, increased public access, tourism, economic growth, public health improvements, and environmental education, the Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter strongly supports the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association and the Illinois representatives who are working together to apply for National Water Trail designation.

Sincerely,

Steve Francis

State Chairperson, Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter